

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2652

Introduced by Assembly Members Chu and Cohn

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Bates, Chavez, Corbett, Diaz, Jackson, Koretz, Longville, Robert Pacheco, Strom-Martin, and Vargas)

(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl and Romero)

February 22, 2002

An act to add Section 69520 to the Government Code, relating to courts, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2652, as amended, Chu. Domestic violence: courts.

Existing law establishes the jurisdiction of superior and municipal courts, as specified. Existing law also prohibits acts of domestic violence, as defined, and provides both civil and criminal sanctions for acts of domestic violence.

This bill would establish the California Domestic Violence Court Task Force, to be composed of 11 members, as specified, and to be staffed and coordinated by the Judicial Council. The bill would set forth the goals and duties of the task force, as specified, which would have as its primary mission the creation of a set of model guidelines for

establishing and operating domestic violence courts throughout the state. The bill would require the task force, by March 1, 2004, to submit its report and recommendations for model guidelines to the Judicial Council, and, at the same time, submit the report and recommendations to the Legislature.

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Judicial Council for those purposes.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 69520 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:
3 69520. (a) There is hereby established in the judicial branch
4 the “California Domestic Violence Court Task Force,” which
5 shall be staffed and coordinated by the Judicial Council.
6 (b) The task force shall be composed of 11 voting members
7 who shall be appointed, as follows:
8 (1) Six members appointed by the Chief Justice of California.
9 (2) Two members appointed by the Governor.
10 (3) One member appointed by the Attorney General.
11 (4) One member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.
12 (5) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.
13 (c) Members of the task force shall include judges with
14 experience hearing domestic violence matters in criminal, civil,
15 family, and juvenile courts, representatives of probation
16 ~~departments, domestic violence victims’ advocates, public and~~
17 *departments, advocates on behalf of domestic violence victims and*
18 *children exposed to domestic violence, public and private*
19 attorneys who specialize in domestic violence matters, and
20 domestic violence experts. It is the intent of the Legislature that
21 domestic violence advocates have a strong presence on the task
22 force.
23 (d) The primary mission and responsibility of the task force
24 shall be to create a set of model guidelines for establishing and
25 operating domestic violence courts in this state. In carrying out this
26 responsibility, the task force shall do all of the following:
27 (1) Assess current available information relating to domestic
28 violence courts, including the report of the Judicial Council issued



1 pursuant to Section 6390 of the Family Code, and studies of
2 domestic violence courts conducted by the National Center for
3 State Courts. The task force shall assess domestic violence court
4 models in this state and other states.

5 (2) Evaluate and describe the best practices adopted for the
6 operation of domestic violence courts in this state and in other
7 states, from both a substantive and a procedural prospective, with
8 particular emphasis on how each model will ensure the safety of,
9 and support for, domestic violence victims and their children.

10 (3) Examine, by sampling methodology, the following data
11 elements with the goal of assessing who is being served by existing
12 domestic violence courts and which models appear the most
13 successful:

14 (A) How domestic violence courts define and rate their success
15 and the factors these courts use to determine their success rate.

16 (B) The percentage of cases involving formal criminal charges,
17 types of crimes charged, conviction rates, sentencing data, judicial
18 oversight mechanisms, recidivism, and probation requirements.

19 (C) The percentage of cases involving civil and family law
20 issues, including custody, dissolution, support and other financial
21 issues, and restraining orders.

22 (D) The percentage of cases involving Child Protective
23 Services or the juvenile court system.

24 (e) In addition to creating model guidelines for domestic
25 violence courts, the task force shall make recommendations for
26 policies and procedures for the appropriate and effective handling
27 of domestic violence matters for all courts that adjudicate domestic
28 violence matters outside of a dedicated domestic violence court.

29 (f) The task force shall, on or before March 1, 2004, submit its
30 report and recommendations for model guidelines to the Judicial
31 Council for adoption, and shall at the same time submit the report
32 and recommendations to the Legislature.

33 (g) For purposes of this section, “domestic violence” means
34 any act described in Section 6211 of the Family Code. “Domestic
35 violence court” has the same meaning as provided in Section 6390
36 of the Family Code.

1 SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund
2 to the Judicial Council the sum of one hundred thousand dollars
3 (\$100,000) to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

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